

## CLAIMS

1. A composition comprising a lanthanide ion that interacts with a sulfur dye such that oxidation of the sulfur dye by oxidizing agents is inhibited and/or reduced, and a fabric softening agent.
2. The composition according to Claim 1 wherein the lanthanide metal ion is selected from the group consisting of: La(III), Ce(IV), Gd(III) and mixtures thereof.
3. A kit comprising:
  - a. an article of manufacture comprising a composition according to Claim 1; and
  - b. instructions for using the composition to treat a fabric in need of treatment.
4. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein the fabric softening agent is a member selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium compounds, smectite clays, polyethylene oxide materials, and tertiary amines.